GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:748
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
CONSUMER FORUMS
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat have requested the Union Government for grant of Rs. 120 lakhs to open Consumer Forums in new districts formed in the State to hear the complaints and grievances of the consumers;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning the grant?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a) to (c): Government of Gujarat requested for the financial assistance of Rs. 120 lacs for setting up of District Forums in six newly created districts in Gujarat. Setting up of the State Commission and District Forums is the responsibility of the State Government as per the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. Central Government does not provide any grant to the State/UT for setting up of State Commission and District Forums. However, financial assistance under One-Time-Grant scheme had been provided to the States and UTs in 1995-99 to supplement their efforts for strengthening the infrastructure of the State Commissions and District Forums already established at the time of approval of the said scheme by the Planning Commission. Proposals made to provide additional grant to strengthen the infrastructure of the forums already established, besides the newly established State Commissions and District Forums were not approved by the Planning Commission.